

Waffle Shop
619 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-503

HABS
DC,
WASH,
328-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
DC,
WASH,
328-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Waffle Shop restaurant, a two story building in the Art Moderne style, is located at 619 Pennsylvania Avenue, Lot 809, next to Barney's Restaruant on the west, the last identifiable fragment of the pre-Civil War Indian Queen Hotel. Lot 809 forms an obtuse "L" plan and is perpendicular to both Pennsylvania Avenue, where it is 21.98 feet wide, and C Street where it is 22.15 feet wide. The lot is completely filled by the building. In 1947, building permit records indicate that the top three stories of the remaining portion of the five story Indian Queen Hotel were removed at 619 and 619A (probably 621) Pennsylvania Avenue.

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

South Facade: Faced with a 2-inch precast concrete panels over what appears to be original brick of the Indian Queen Hotel, the Pennsylvania Avenue facade is pierced with a two story chamfered opening which is edged with a red terrazzo half round surround which projects 6" from the building face. An aluminum and glass storefront, with a red neon sign at the level of the second floor which reads "WAFFLE SHOP", is recessed several feet from the lines of the sidewalk. To the west of the storefront opening is a door leading to a stair which gives access to the second floor.

North Facade: The rear facade, which appears to have been constructed in 1947, is of common bond red brick with headers generally appearing every six courses. The second floor has two picture windows with flanking side casements, steel lintels and rowlock sills. The ground floor is completely open, providing parking and a loading area for the reataurant.

The interior consists of one large restaurant space with a ceramic tile floor that continues outside the building into the area between the store window and the edge of the sidewalk. A serpentine formica and aluminum counter with back bar and streamlined Art Moderne detailing continues along the wood molding surrounding the room and frames the mirrors which line the back (North) and the side (East) walls.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant as an example of the urban changes which occurred in the post-war period when appreciation of the 19th century architecture in this country was at its lowest point. It is quite a complete example of restaruant design during this period.